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NO. 1101 P. 4

Appl. No.: 09/956,998

October 24, 2005

Reply to Communication of July 22, 2005Amendments to the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A masked expression cassette comprising a double stranded nucleic acid molecule wherein a first strand comprises an RNA sequence which codes for a protein of interest linked downstream of a flanking sequence, and a translation initiation site operably inserted upstream of the RNA sequence; and, a second strand bound to the flanking sequence, wherein said second strand comprises a polynucleotide complementary to said first strand and to a target molecule, further wherein said cassette comprises a 7-methyl guanine cap linked to the 5' end of the flanking sequence.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The cassette of claim 1, wherein said protein of interest comprises a toxin selected from the group consisting of Pseudomonas exotoxin A, ribonuclease, Barnase toxin, Pertussis toxin, and cholera toxin.

4-6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A masked expression cassette comprising a double stranded nucleic acid molecule wherein a first strand comprises an RNA sequence which codes for a protein of interest linked downstream of a plurality of sense sequences, and a translation initiation site operably inserted upstream of the RNA sequence; and, a plurality of second strands, each bound to an individual sense sequence, wherein each of said second strands comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to one of said sense sequences and to a target molecule.

8. (original) The cassette of claim 7, wherein said cassette further comprises a 7-methyl guanine cap linked to the 5' end of said nucleic acid molecule.

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9. (original) The cassette of claim 8, wherein said protein of interest comprises a toxin selected from the group consisting of Pseudomonas exotoxin A, ribonuclease, Barnase toxin, Pertussis toxin, and cholera toxin.

10. (previously presented) The cassette of claim 8, wherein each of said sense sequences comprises a distinct nucleotide sequence and each of said second strands comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to one of said distinct sense sequences and to a distinct target molecule.

11. (original) The cassette of claim 8 having two sense sequences and two second strands.

12. (original) The cassette of claim 8 having three sense sequences and three second strands.